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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 ACDA-07 /080 W
---------- 102261
R 201743Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1986
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EUR, GW, PFOR
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SUBJECT: BREZHNEV TO VISIT FRG

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1. THE GERMAN PRESS CARRIED SEPTEMBER 20 TASS ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF BREZHNEV ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION
FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO VISIT BONN. THE PRESS ALSO
REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT CIRCLES IN BONN CONFIRMED THIS
REPORT. NO DATE FOR THE VISIT HAS BEEN FIXED, BUT ALL
COMMENTARIES AGREE THAT THE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER
THE ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 3. THE ARTICLES ANNOUNCING THE
VISIT ALSO NOTE THAT THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED BY
SCHMIDT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION IN OCTOBER
1974, THAT THIS WILL BE THE SECOND VISIT BY BREZHNEV TO
BONN, AND THAT SINCE THE FIRST VISIT THERE HAS BEEN SOME
PROGRESS IN GERMAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. SOME OF THE PRESS
ARTICLES SPECULATE THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT AT
THIS TIME, TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, IS DESIGNED
TO HELP THE SPD.

2. COMMENT: AS CAN BE SEEN FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING,
MOSCOW AND BONN HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER
REPEATEDLY CONCERNING A POSSIBLE VISIT BY BREZHNEV TO THE
FRG. INITIALLY, IT WAS THOUGHT THE VISIT WOULD TAKE
PLACE IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR AND COULD POSSIBLY BE
MARKED BY CONCRETE STEPS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, SUCH AS
CONCLUSION OF THE THREE AGREEMENTS HELD UP ON THE
QUESTION OF INCLUSION OF BERLIN. THE FACT THAT NEITHER
THE VISIT NOR PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS TOOK
PLACE LED TO SPECULATION, WHICH WE HAVE REPORTED
SEPARATELY, THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD RATHER SEE THE CDU/
CSU IN POWER. OTHER FACTORS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS
THINKING.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE OPPOSITION CDU/CSU HAS
SUCCEEDED IN FOCUSING FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN THE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON OSTPOLITIK. THIS ISSUE IS ONE
ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT FEELS SOMEWHAT ON THE DEFENSIVE
BECAUSE OF LACK OF RECENT PROGRESS. THE TACTICAL SUCCESS
OF THE CDU/CSU HAS THUS HAD SOME IMPACT HERE.

4. WE ARE STILL NOT CLEAR ABOUT SOVIET INTEREST IN ALL
THIS. A COUNSELOR AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE REACTED
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IN A VERY SHOCKED MANNER WHEN WE ASKED HIM ABOUT
SPECULATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION WISHED TO HELP THE
CDU/CSU. HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION FAVORS THE PRESENT
COALITION AND SUGGESTED THAT MOSCOW REGARDED STRAUSS
AS ANATHEMA.

5. WHATEVER PAST SOVIET ATTITUDES AND THEIR IMPACT IN
BONN MAY HAVE BEEN, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE RUSSIANS

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ARE TRYING TO HELP SCHMIDT AND THE SPD. FALIN TWO WEEKS AGO GAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH A VERY POSITIVE TONE ABOUT FUTURE SOVIET/FRG RELATIONS. HONECKER REPORTEDLY WENT OUT OF HIS WAY IN LEIPZIG RECENTLY TO PROMISE GOOD THINGS TO COME IN FRG/GDR RELATIONS. THE GDR HAS PROMISED FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ACROSS THE BORDER. WE ASSUME THAT MUCH OF THIS HAS RESULTED FROM SCHMIDT'S PRIVATE COMPLAINTS TO MOSCOW AND EAST BERLIN THAT THEIR POLICIES WERE HURTING HIM. THE RECENT SOVIET/FRG AGREEMENT OF EXCHANGE OF ATTACHES REFLECTS CONTINUED EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES.

6. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, OF COURSE, THAT THE SOVIETAND EAST GERMAN MOVES TO DATE ARE STILL LONG ON ATMOSPHERICS AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. SO FAR AS WE CAN

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SEE, NEITHER MOSCOW NOR EAST BERLIN HAS PAID ANY PRICE EXCEPT TO MAKE PROMISES OF CONTINUED IMPROVED RELATIONS AND IN HUMANITARIAN ARRANGEMENTS. EVEN THAT, HOWEVER, IS NOW WELCOME TO SCHMIDT.

7. GENSCHER'S ATTITUDE IS LESS CERTAIN. WE KNOW FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO HIM THAT HE OPPOSED A BREZHNEV VISIT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS UNLESS THE VISIT PRODUCED CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS SIGNATURE OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE THREE SOVIET-GERMAN AGREEMENTS AWAITING INCLUSION OF A BERLIN CLAUSE. WE NOW UNDERSTAND FROM A SOURCE CLOSE TO HIM THAT HE WAS NOT PLEASED WITH THIS WEEKEND'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN UPCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT. THIS SUGGESTS, PENDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, THAT THE VISIT HAS BEEN AGREED WITHOUT ANY SOVIET CONCESSION ON BERLIN, BUT MAINLYIN ORDER TO HELP THE COALITION GET PAST OCTOBER 3.

8. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEH WHETHER THESE MOVES BY THE RUSSIANS AND THEMSELVES WILL HELP THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. THE GERMANS HAVE BECOME CYNICAL ABOUT RUSSIAN PROMISES AND WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THAT THE LATEST GESTURES WILL ALSO BACKFIRE. SCHMIDT, HOWEVER, IS OBVIOUSLY HOPING THEY WILL HELP HIM.
HILLENBRAND

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